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This Week in Congress

October 18, 2010

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." This week's headlines are:

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New Markets for Kansas Agriculture

This week, Chairman Collin Peterson of the House Agriculture Committee and I, requested that President Obama repeal U.S. Department of Treasury regulations that restrict access of American farmers and ranchers to Cuban markets. In recent weeks, reports have indicated the Administration is preparing to make changes to U.S. travel policy with Cuba. If that is the case, it only makes sense to also repeal the 2005 restrictions placed on agricultural sales. Our request is the most widely supported modification of U.S. policy to Cuba and is estimated to result in over \$270 million in new exports.

Cuba imports nearly eighty-five percent of its food and current U.S. trade policies hurt American farmers and ranchers by making it more expensive for Cuba to purchase our agriculture products. Instead of buying U.S. commodities, current policy encourages Cuba to buy its food from countries such as Vietnam and China. Chairman Peterson and I introduced legislation earlier this year, H.R. 4645, to standardize our trade policies and to open Cuban markets for American farmers and ranchers. Our request to President Obama this week is similar to the changes our legislation would make. [Click here](#) to read more about our request.

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Discussions with President Beggs at Wichita State University

On Friday, I visited the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) at Wichita State University. Founded in 1985, NIAR has distinguished itself as a leading university-based aviation research center, which provides research, design, testing and certification to the aviation industry, educational entities and government agencies. I appreciated the opportunity to return to NIAR and learn more about the Institute's research and how it benefits the aviation industry in Kansas. I was also pleased to hear about the many advances in aviation research that are benefiting other fields, including the medical field. Thanks to Dr. Don Beggs, President of Wichita State University, and Dr. John Tomblin, NIAR Executive Director, for hosting me and to Andy Schlapp for arranging my visit.

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Understanding Kansas' Unique Health Care Needs

I had the opportunity to tour several Kansas hospitals this week to learn more about their efforts to care for the local community. Visiting hospitals across our state helps me better understand the unique health care needs of Kansans.

William Newton Hospital (WNH) in Winfield: During my visit, I spoke with physicians and hospital staff about issues facing Kansas hospitals and the implementation of the health care reform law. WNH is a not-for-profit Critical Access Hospital that has served Winfield and the surrounding community since 1927. WNH provides general medical and surgical care for inpatient, outpatient and emergency room patients. The hospital is locally managed and completely self-sufficient, receiving no tax subsidies, and is governed by a five member Board of Trustees appointed by the Winfield City Commission. Thanks to Administrator Dick Vaught for coordinating my visit and thanks to Fred Lucky of the Kansas Hospital Association for joining me on the tour.

Sumner Regional Medical Center (SRMC) in Wellington: SRMC is an 80-bed hospital offering advanced imaging capabilities, maternity care, cancer care, general surgery, residential care, short-term rehab and a variety of other inpatient and outpatient hospital services. The hospital's history in Wellington stretches back to 1910 with the establishment of St. Luke's Hospital, that later became SRMC. This hospital is led by a five-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Wellington City Council. In 2006 and 2007, SRMC's volunteer team was awarded the Gold Award of Excellence from the Kansas Auxiliaries of Kansas through the Kansas Hospital Association. Thanks to President and CEO Dr. Robert Bean for coordinating my visit and thanks to HCA Board President Donna Granger; City Manager Gus Collins; Fred Lucky, Senior Vice President of the Kansas Hospital Association; State Representative Vince Wetta and Shelley Hansel-Williams, Executive Director of the Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce, for joining us on the tour.

[Click here](#)

to view a photo of my visit.





[Click here](#) to view the photo of the meeting.

[Click here](#) to view the photo of the meeting.



Click here for more information about the ship's hull.



Click here for more information about the group photo.



Finished Dammert's home in West Plains, Missouri. Click here for more information about the project.



Finished Dammert's home in West Plains, Missouri. Click here for more information about the project.



[Click here](#) to view the photo of Congressman Jerry Moran speaking at the podium during the community event.



[Click here](#) to view the photo of Congressman Jerry Moran and his family posing for a photo under the yellow tent.



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Jerry Moran's Newsletter 10-18-10